



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Riley County, KS and surrounding regions
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
(or Location of Position if Type III): 1800 Denison Avenue, Manhattan, KS, 66506
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☐ High Priority ☒ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☐ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: Kansas State University Position Title: Veterinary Epidemiologist
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☒ Food Safety
☒ Public Health
☒ Epidemiology
☒ Other: applied beef safety /
production

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This shortage situation demonstrates a critical need for a veterinarian with advanced training in epidemiology and experience collaborating with veterinarians, producers, and allied industries on issues related to food safety, zoonosis/public health, and animal health/welfare in food animal production systems. Kansas has some of the nation's largest extensive and intensive beef production systems and other cattle (dairy) systems have been expanding in the state. Many of the key veterinary issues must be addressed utilizing epidemiologic approaches. The primary objective of a veterinarian in this shortage area would be to devote at least 50% of their time to serving the needs of practitioners, producers, and allied industries in the state of Kansas and surrounding areas. The incumbent will serve as a resource for 1) training veterinarians and others on key epidemiologic and food safety/public health issues impacting food animal production systems, 2) investigating emerging issues in commercial production systems that are affecting animal health or food safety, 3) disseminating results from applied investigations to key stakeholders. The incumbent also will serve as a liaison between Kansas State's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (KSVDL) and the veterinary and agricultural communities of the region, with a primary goal to enhance engagement with the beef industry.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The veterinarian in this shortage situation would be engaged on a daily basis with practitioners, producers, and allied industries to address issues related to food safety, zoonosis/public health, and animal health/welfare in food animal production systems. In order to address these issues, the incumbent: 1) will consult with practitioners, diagnosticians, and others on appropriate investigation and surveillance strategies, 2) lead investigations or applied research into key issues as prioritized by Kansas stakeholders, 3) disseminate key findings through both local and regional venues. In addition, the incumbent will provide training opportunities for diagnosticians, practitioners, producers, and other current or future professionals so they understand the important epidemiologic concepts and food safety/public health issues impacting food animal production systems. The veterinarian will contribute to the KSVDL mission as an expert epidemiologist, providing leadership on epidemiologic approaches applied to food animal/food safety problems. The incumbent also will be actively engaged in committee and board activities to support the strategic direction of KSVDL and other Kansas entities, and will actively engage national organizations (e.g. Academy of Veterinary Consultants, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, National Cattlemen's Beef Association) to enhance coordination between state and national efforts.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Veterinarians with advanced (PhD) training in epidemiology and extensive experience addressing issues related to food safety, zoonosis/public health, and animal health/welfare in commercial food animal production systems are extremely sparse and nearly impossible to recruit and retain in academia/public practice. This is exacerbated when, in this case, we would prefer specific experience with beef systems. This type of veterinarian is usually absorbed quickly into private industry positions which pay significantly higher salaries. Over the last 5-10 years, searches for similar positions have largely been unsuccessful. One current veterinary faculty fits the shortage situation, but has been recruited intensively.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

A strong veterinary support system is critical for producers, food animal practitioners, and food animal industries within the state of Kansas and beyond. Most key issues related to food safety, public health, and animal health/welfare in commercial food production systems must be addressed, at least in part, with epidemiologic approaches. Thus, it is essential that Kansas has an appropriately qualified veterinary epidemiologist engaged in local, state and national plans to produce safe food and enhance animal, human, and environmental health. The risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained is very real. As mentioned above, the type of veterinarian needed is extremely rare and sought-after; thus, very difficult to recruit or retain. If the state and KSVDL does not have such a person to consult with practitioners, diagnosticians, and others on appropriate diagnostic investigation and surveillance strategies, or to lead investigations and disseminate

subsequent findings to stakeholders, there may be significant negative ramifications in efforts to produce safe food and enhance animal and human health. Further, as the KSVDL strives to become more engaged with the beef industry – particularly important as Kansas beef production feeds the world and is the largest food animal industry in the state – there needs to be an epidemiologist with strong ties to the beef industry. The potential benefits of having a successful awardee engaged in this process over a three-year period (and perhaps beyond) would be tremendous for the beef industry, KSVDL, the state of Kansas, and much broader national and international communities.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

50%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: William L. Brown DVM

Title: Animal Health Commissioner

Organization: Division of Animal Health, KS Dept. of Ag.

Email: William.Brown@kda.ks.gov

Telephone Number: (785) 368-6491
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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